

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

Re: HB 5412, "An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities" -- Imagine my surprise when I wanted to get solar panels installed on my roof, thinking I had the perfect place for them -- new roof, correct orientation, lots of sun after several trees came down around our house -- and discovered that the remaining maple tree in our yard completely shades the south-facing roof when it leafs out.

I learned about shared solar from a report on Living on Earth, a wonderful radio program that focuses on environmental issues. It was a story about people in the town of Harvard, MA, who are building a shared solar facility. My family would love the opportunity to participate in such a program here in Connecticut. As it stands now, the majority of Connecticut homeowners -- just like us -- cannot access affordable clean energy because they do not have a suitable site for renewable energy on their own property. This act will enable all energy customers to participate in shared clean energy facilities and receive credit on our utility bill for our portion of the clean energy produced. Passage of the act will also benefit renters and condo-owners.

Finally -- and this is very important to me -- it also benefits everyone in the state by reducing the need to run expensive and polluting fossil fuel power plants at peak times when solar works best.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melinda Tuhus  
103 Carmalt Rd.  
Hamden, CT 06517